III. REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-35 are in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7-8 have been cancelled. Claims 3-4, 6, 9, 11, 13, have been amended. Claims 25-35 are new.

Restriction

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This examiner states that the application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 3.1 and 37 CFR 1.475. In accordance with these rules, the examiner has required applicant, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted. The examiner states that 4 distinct inventions are present, as follows:

Group I, claims 1 -9, 1 1-13, drawn to a first method, a method of making a fibrin matrix using a fibrinogen variant or a fibrinogen enriched or depleted in a fibrinogen variant.

Group II, claim 10, drawn to a second method, a method of use of a fibrin matrix comprising a fibrinogen variant or a fibrinogen enriched or depleted in a fibrinogen variant.

Group III, claims 14-19, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising fibrinogen and carrier, where the fibrinogen is a variant or a fibrinogen enriched or depleted in a fibrinogen variant.

Group IV, claims 20-24, drawn to a kit comprising fibrinogen variant or a fibrinogen enriched or depleted in a fibrinogen variant.

Applicant traverses this requirement.

Notwithstanding such traversal, Applicant elects Group I directed to claims relating to a method of modifying the fibrinogen content of a composition containing multiple variants of fibrinogen.

The examiner recognizes at page 2 of the office action that an international application will be considered to have unity of invention when the claims are drawn to a combination

> "(3) a product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the [said] product, and a use of the [said] product;"

Applicant has recast the claims to correspond to the three varieties of claims permitted in an application having unity of invention.

Claims 2-4, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 25-34 relate to a method of manufacture of a composition having modified fibrinogen content. Claims 14-19 and 36-39 relate to the product produced by the process of those claims. Claims 12 and 35 relate to a use of the product of the process.

Thus, these claims conform to the statutory requirement and unity of invention is present.

As a species to be elected, applicants elect "(a) fibrinogen consisting of HMW fibrinogen". It is noted that all the claims elected read on compositions containing an amount of HMW fibrinogen, although the content will vary depending on the intended use of the material.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

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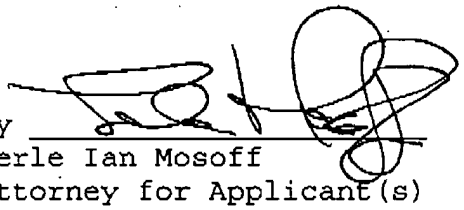

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